Patent Claims

1. A method using body samples for diagnosing carcinomas, or preliminary stages thereof, which are caused by human papilloma viruses or are associated with human papilloma viruses, characterized in that it is established whether a capsid protein of a human papilloma virus (HPV) is being expressed.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the capsid protein is the capsid protein L1 or L2.

3. The method as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 2, characterized in that the carcinomas are anogenital carcinomas.

4. The method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the anogenital carcinoma is a cervical carcinoma.

5. The method as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the body samples are smears or biopsy samples.

6. The method as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the expression is determined at the nucleic acid level.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that it is determined whether an mRNA which encodes a human papilloma virus capsid protein, or another transcription factor which is specific for a capsid protein, is present.

8. The method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that it is determined whether a serological and/or immunological reaction to the capsid antigen is present.

9. The method as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the expression is determined at the protein level.

10. The method as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the expression is determined at the nucleic acid level and at the protein level.

11. The method as claimed in claim 9 or 10, characterized in that the expression of the envelope protein is determined using antibodies which are directed against the capsid protein.

12. A test kit for detecting carcinomas, or preliminary stages thereof, which are caused by human papilloma viruses or are associated with human papilloma viruses (HPV), using body samples, characterized in that the test kit comprises a reagent which can be used to establish whether an HPV capsid protein is being expressed.

13. The test kit as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the reagent comprises monoclonal antibodies directed against HPV capsid proteins, in particular against the capsid protein L1 or L2.

14. The test kit as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that the antibodies are fixed on a solid support.

15. The test kit as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that it comprises, as detection reagent, an anti-mouse immunoglobulin in combination with an enzyme, preferably a peroxidase.

16. The test kit as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that it is suitable for implementing an ELISA test.